

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An optical fiber drop cable comprising:

an optical element section including an optical fiber ~~wire~~, at least one pair of first ~~tensile strength bodies~~ members disposed in parallel ~~to~~ with the optical fiber ~~wire~~ in between, and a first cable sheath that covers said optical fiber ~~wire~~ and said first ~~tensile strength bodies~~ members;

a cable support section including a second ~~tensile strength body~~ member and a second cable sheath that covers said second ~~tensile strength body~~ member; and

a neck portion that connects said optical element section and said cable support section in parallel to each other, wherein

said neck portion includes a thick part disposed on the side of said cable support section, and a thin part, which is thinner than said thick part, disposed on the side of said optical element section, and wherein said neck portion further includes a step formed between said thick part and thin part.

Claim 2 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 1, wherein said thin part has a width 0.1 - 0.2mm and thickness 0.2 - 0.4mm.

Claim 3 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 2, wherein said thick part has a width 0.05 - 0.35mm and thickness 0.8 - 0.9mm.

Claim 4 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 3, wherein the first cable sheath, the second cable sheath and the neck portion are made of common thermoplastic resin as one body.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An optical fiber drop cable comprising,
a cable sheath which is made of thermoplastic resin, and which includes
an optical fiber housing section covering an optical fiber ~~wire~~ and a pair of
strength ~~bodies~~ members disposed on opposite sides of said optical fiber ~~wire~~ in the x
direction, and having a pair of V shaped notches formed on opposite surfaces in the y
direction,
a support wire housing section covering a support wire, and disposed in
parallel to said optical fiber housing section in the x-z plane; and
a neck portion that connects said optical fiber housing section and said support
wire housing section, wherein
said neck portion includes
a thin part formed on the optical fiber housing section side and having a
generally even dimension in the y direction, and
a thick part formed on the support wire housing section side and having a
generally even dimension in the y direction which is larger than the thin part, and wherein
said neck portion further includes a step formed between said thick part and
thin part.

Claim 6 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 5, wherein the thin part has dimensions of 0.1 - 0.2mm in the x direction and 0.2 - 0.4mm in the y direction.

Claim 7 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 6, wherein the thick part has dimensions of 0.05 - 0.35mm in the x direction and 0.8 - 0.9mm in the y direction.

Claim 8 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic resin is polyvinylchloride.

Claim 9 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 7, wherein the thermoplastic resin is flame-resistant polyethylene.

Claim 10 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 5, wherein the neck portion includes an inclined portion formed between the thick part and the thin part, in which the dimension of the y direction decreases from the thick part towards the thin part.

Claim 11 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 10, wherein the thin part has dimensions of 0.1 - 0.2mm in the x direction and 0.2 - 0.4mm in the y direction.

Claim 12 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 11, wherein the thick part has dimensions of 0.05 - 0.35mm in the x direction and 0.8 - 0.9mm in the y direction.

Claim 13 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 12, wherein the thermoplastic resin is polyvinylchloride.

Claim 14 (Original): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 12, wherein the thermoplastic resin is flame-resistant polyethylene.

Claim 15 (New): An optical fiber drop cable comprising:

an optical element section including an optical fiber, at least one pair of first strength members disposed in parallel with the optical fiber in between, and a first cable sheath that covers said optical fiber and said first strength members;

a cable support section including a second strength member and a second cable sheath that covers said second strength member; and

a neck portion that connects said optical element section and said cable support section in parallel to each other, wherein

said neck portion including a breakable part disposed on the side of said optical element section at which said neck portion is adapted to break when separating said optical element section from said cable support section, and a protective part disposed on the side of said cable support section which prevents said cable support section breaking.

Claim 16 (New): An optical fiber drop cable according to claim 1, wherein said neck portion continuously extends along the longitudinal direction of said cable.